



The University of Akron  
Buchtel College of Arts  
and Sciences

WINTER 2025 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



**GREETINGS from the Dean**



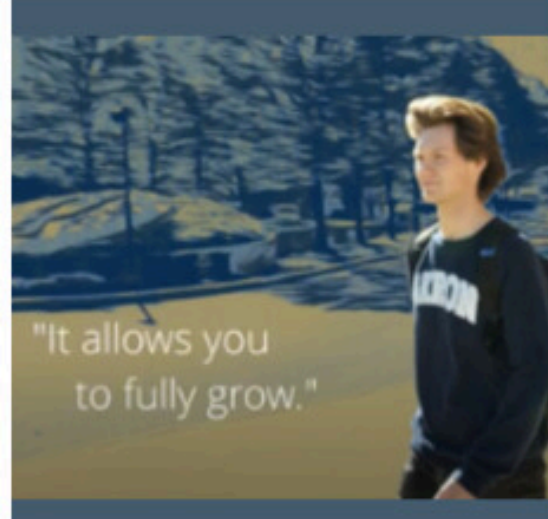
**BUCHTEL COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**



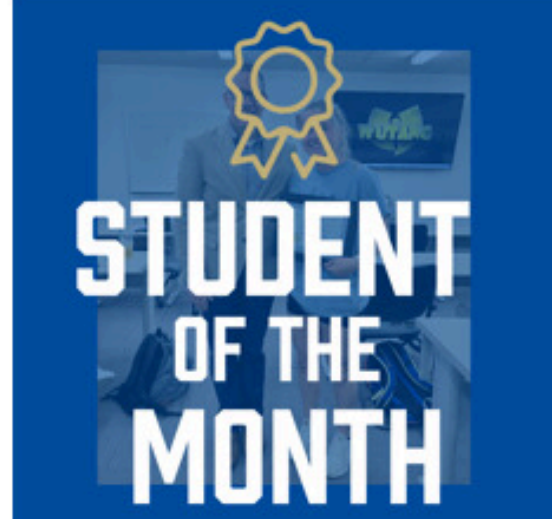
The University of Akron Office of Alumni Relations is now accepting nominations for the Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award, which honors graduates whose lives and achievements embody the vision, leadership, and commitment to community exemplified by the college's namesake, John R. Buchtel.

[Nominate a fellow alumnus/a today!](#)



**Breaking Cycles, Building Futures**

**AJ Stewart** transformed challenges into growth, paving the way for his success as a Criminal Intelligence Analysis major and showing how first-gen students break cycles and build futures.



**From Classrooms to Communities**

Meet our Fall 2024 Students of the Month: **Anisha, Rose, Oscar, and Miranda**, whose academic achievements, leadership, and contributions to community and inclusion set a powerful example for future generations.



**Operation Teach: Veterans to Educators**

Veterans can find new job opportunities in education through a new program funded by a \$482K grant, providing the skills and support needed for successful teaching careers.



**Three Degrees, One Mission**

BCAS alumnus **Dr. Cristina González Alcalá '10, '12, '20** shares her transformative journey from athlete to educator, inspiring future leaders in education and community service.



**Meet the Spider Gladiator**

Slingshot spiders listen for prey before launching webs at 50G speeds. Research by **Dr. Todd Blackledge** unveils their remarkable hunting strategy and precision-based mechanisms.



**"Dialogue with the Dean"**

Hosted by **Dean Mitchell S. McKinney**, this new video series offers exclusive opportunities to explore the research, creativity and expertise driving the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences.



**From History to Helping Hands**

Meet **Susie Muetzel**, administrative assistant in the Dept. of History, "Above and Beyond" award recipient for her exceptional efforts in assisting students and several departments.



**Civility in Politics**

**Dr. J. Cherie Strachan**, director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, joined PBS Western Reserve to dissect how and why the electorate has lowered its standards for civility in U.S. politics.



**Akron's Missing Street**

In a story by Ideastream, students work with **Tony Pankuch** and **Dr. Hillary Nunn** to preserve the legacy of Akron's South Howard Street, a LGBTQ+ cultural hub.



**Congratulations to BCAS "5 Under 35" Recipient**

**Darnell D. Davis Jr. '16, '18** is an experienced leader with over 15 years in both private and public sector management. This year's forum and presentation will be held on Feb. 26, 2025 from 6-8 p.m. in the Jean Hower

**Noteworthy News**

- Get a copy of this prize-winning poetry book published by University of Akron Press. Khalaf Tuffaha's "Something About Living" [won the prestigious 2024 National Book Award for Poetry](#) and the 2022 Akron Poetry Prize led by series editor **Dr. Mary Biddinger** (English).
- The next time you visit campus, be sure to check out "Ochtheadal Fields," a towering 20-foot sculpture outside the newly renovated Crouse Hall, created as part of the Ohio Percent for Arts Program. **Liam Kidd**, [a Myers School of Art student worked with the artist](#).
- After 20 years, our 100% online degree options gave **Michelle Williams** [the opportunity to earn her degree](#) in Organizational Supervision from the School of Communication.



**2025 Zippy Calendar for Sale**

It's not too late! Secure the last of our 2025 Zippy Calendars from the 1870 Market before they're gone! Each month of our calendar features everyone's favorite marsupial around campus and in the City of Akron!

Price: \$20.25 (includes \$10 donation to student scholarships). Shipping and pick-up available!

**CHANGING LIVES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD**



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The University of Akron

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